



# Announcing the Kingdom

## ANNOUNCING THE KINGDOM

**Announcing the Kingdom** is noticing and naming the movement of God in public, so that others may notice it too. This practice builds on what you do in the first two practices, Dwelling in the Word and in the World.

### What is Announcing the Kingdom?

**Noticing** where God is at work in the world or church

**Naming** God's activity, flagging it up, by putting it into words

**Telling others** about this movement of God so that others will notice it too

### What are we doing when we Announce the Kingdom?

In a way we are simply being honest about God's work in us and in the world! The powerful cultural pressure not to speak a word of faith in public ('faith is private') has made many of us act like 'functional atheists' in the public sphere. No one might ever know we were Christians. By putting God's movement into words in this way, we are inviting people (inside the church and outside) to be 'detectives of divinity'. When we do this, it is surprising how many non-Christians, or apparent non-Christians, 'get' it, and recognise God's movement themselves. We can often tell by watching people's faces.

The experience of Announcing the Kingdom' is often one of being *caught up in God's flow*, rather than trying to persuade someone about God. When we see someone's eyes light up because we have put something of God into words, it leads to delight in us and often in them.

### Some examples

*"That's God working through you. You were God's agent".*

*"I can see God working when you do that".*

*"I can feel God's love coming through your compassion".*

*"When you did that, and there was such peace, I felt God's presence".*

*"When you said that it felt like God speaking to us".*

*"What you are doing is close to God's heart, I can sense his pleasure".*

*"God sees what you are doing and smiles".*

*"Oh that looks like God to me".*

*"That looks like Jesus to me".*

*"You've been doing God's work today".*

*"You are sharing in God's care for God's creation".*

**Keep it simple!**



## The spiritual leadership required for this practice ‘so that it lives’

*Imagine a church where a significant proportion of the people practised Announcing the Kingdom with each other and then in the world. What could happen...?*

- Can you **commit** as an MLC team to having a go, and sharing your experiences with each other to see what you are learning?
- Can you then **gather** a few others to **practise** and **disperse** Announcing the Kingdom? Which members of your MLC team will take the lead on this?
- Next, and like all MLC practices, this one needs to be **shared** or ‘**diffused**’. How might this practice be brought into your services as a normal part of what you do? Watch this 5-minute video as a team: <https://vimeo.com/churchmissionsociety/download/548919971/cfd5d2f2ca> (downloading the smallest option works fine).
- What will you now **do**?

## A personal note...The Examen

The Examen is a matching personal daily practice which you can do by yourself. Practicing the Examen helps us develop our ‘noticing and naming’ capacity. In a time of quiet you ask yourself these questions:

- Where have I sensed God’s loving presence and/or activity this day?
- Where have I felt far from God’s loving presence and/or activity today?
- What then shall I do tomorrow to be in God’s loving presence and/or activity more?

When we can do this personally and in public, however falteringly, we are truly announcing God’s kingdom. Like in Luke 10:9.